Department of Homeland Security
Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report
for 16 August 2006

Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports a power outage blacked out more than 71,000 Los Angeles utility customers including City Hall, police headquarters, and other government buildings for up to 15 minutes Monday, August 14; this was the latest in series of problems for the city Department of Water and Power. (See item 3)

- The Los Angeles Times reports Los Angeles International Airport officials on Monday, August 14, publicly questioned whether the Federal Aviation Administration was adequately maintaining its air traffic control equipment after a key landing system malfunctioned, the fourth mishap in less than a month. (See item 15)

- Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said on Sunday, August 13, that he intends to replace contractors who inspect passenger identification at airport checkpoints with staff members from the Transportation Security Administration. (See item 16)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: Energy; Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials; Defense Industrial Base

Service Industries: Banking and Finance; Transportation and Border Security; Postal and Shipping

Sustenance and Health: Agriculture; Food; Water; Public Health

Federal and State: Government; Emergency Services

IT and Cyber: Information Technology and Telecommunications; Internet Alert Dashboard

Other: Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons; General; DHS Daily Report Contact Information

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES–ISAC) – http://www.esisac.com]

1.

August 15, Korea Times — **Scientists look to sea for energy.** A team of South Korean scientists has found a revolutionary way to obtain energy from the deep sea, while disposing of the harmful air pollutant carbon dioxide in the process. The team, led by Professor Lee Huen at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, said the breakthrough finding would be printed in the next edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Lee said, "Natural gas hydrate has been touted as a future energy source thanks to its efficiency and abundance, but the hitch has been that it was hard to separate the gas located mainly in continental margins of deep seas...However, we found a way to swap the useful gas with harmful carbon dioxide, which means we developed a technique that would serve double duty as a source of natural gas hydrate and create storage sites for carbon dioxide." Lee estimated that the total amount of natural gas hydrate would be about twice as much as the energy contained in fossil fuel reserves.
Source: http://times.hankooki.com/lpage/tech/200608/kt20060815145905_11780.htm

2. *August 15, Associated Press* — **Large oil spill occurs in Indian Ocean.** A Japanese tanker spilled about 1.4 million gallons of crude oil in the eastern Indian Ocean following a collision with a cargo ship, the tanker's operator said Tuesday, August 15. Japan's Kyodo news service said the spill –– which would be about 4,500 tons –– may have been the largest ever involving a Japanese tanker. In a separate oil spill, the Philippines said that a tanker had sunk in rough seas Friday off the coast of Guimaras Island, about 312 miles southeast of Manila. About 528,000 gallons of industrial fuel was leaking from the accident, officials said. The Japanese tanker Bright Artemis spilled the oil following a collision Monday with the Amar, a smaller cargo ship. The exact amount of the spill was not clear. The tanker was carrying about 77.6 million gallons, or 250,000 tons, of crude. It had left port in Oman bound for Japan.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp–dyn/content/article/2006/08
/15/AR2006081500172.html

3. *August 14, Associated Press* — **Los Angeles hit by another big power failure.** A power outage blacked out more than 71,000 utility customers including City Hall, police headquarters, and other government buildings in the civic center area for up to 15 minutes Monday, August 14. It was the latest in series of problems for the city Department of Water and Power (DWP), which has 1.4 million customers. The electrical outage extended outside the civic center and affected some residential and commercial buildings, said DWP spokesperson Gale Harris. The failure involved a transformer bank at a North Main Street electrical receiving station but the exact cause remained under investigation, Harris said. Power went out at 11:41 a.m. PDT. Some of the 71,200 affected customers were back up in seven minutes, and power was restored to the remainder at 11:56 a.m. A 20–minute outage hit about 4,000 civic center customers on August 2, and during July's heat wave 860 transformers failed, leaving thousands without power.
Source: http://www.sfgate.com/cgi–bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2006/08/14/ state/n141748D60.DTL

4. *August 14, U.S. Department of Energy* — **DOE announces $1.4 million for industry–laboratory teams to study using nuclear energy for clean hydrogen.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced that it intends to fund approximately $1.4 million for two projects to partner with industry to study the economic feasibility of producing hydrogen at existing commercial nuclear power plants. Teams selected by DOE for funding will be headed by Electric Transportation Applications and GE Global Research. Both teams

include DOE national laboratories and nuclear utility companies as partners. "Hydrogen is important to our economy today and will be even more important in the future as a potential clean, renewable carrier of energy, particularly in the transportation area," DOE Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Dennis Spurgeon said.
Information on DOE's nuclear energy programs: http://nuclear.gov/.
Source: http://www.energy.gov/news/3949.htm

5. *August 11, Virgin Islands News* — **Threatened attack on HOVENSA refinery.** A threatened attack on the HOVENSA refinery on St. Croix, Thursday, August 10, caused major traffic backups and the cancellation of one flight into the U.S. Virgin Islands. Alex Moorhead, HOVENSA vice president, said the refinery was notified by police Thursday morning that 911 emergency dispatchers received a call from an unidentified man saying an aircraft carrying explosives was headed to the territory from Florida and would crash into the refinery. He said the caller identified the aircraft by a tail number, and HOVENSA officials contacted federal authorities. "From a number of our sources, we were able to determine that the aircraft did not exist and that the call and threat that were made were a hoax," said Moorhead. American Airlines delayed St. Croix's only daily commercial flight from Florida to execute security measures after being notified of the threat. Moorhead said officials from the local Police Department, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, FBI, U.S. Coast Guard, and Department of Homeland Security played important roles providing assistance during the incident. Moorhead said while all needed precautions were taken, activity at the refinery was not interrupted and the refinery was not evacuated.
Source: http://www.virginislandsdailynews.com/index.pl/article_home? id=17595141

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.
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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.
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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *August 15, Register (United Kingdom)* — **Barclays scripting snafu exploited by phishers.** Online scammers are exploiting a redirection script on the Website of one of the biggest banks in the United Kingdom, Barclays. The scam uses the bank's Website to make fraudulent e−mails look more convincing. A similar attack, again ostensibly pointing to Barclays' Website, but in reality directing surfers towards a phishing net, has been reported by other fraud watchers. The other scams detailed by anti−phishing Website MillerSmiles have a URL that more obviously points to something that's nothing to do with the targeted organization.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2006/08/15/barclays_phish_scam/

7. *August 15, Finextra* — **Gartner calls on banks to adopt Web 2.0 technologies.** Financial services firms should use Web 2.0 applications such as wikis, podcasts and blogs in order to improve cross−enterprise collaboration and deliver personalized information to clients, according to Gartner research group. The report says that engaging with customers through call centers and via Internet campaigns is no longer sufficient and recommends that banks adopt Web 2.0 applications in order to provide personalized services to customers. Banks should also deploy RSS syndication, podcasts, and tags to deliver content covering online banking security and financial education topics.
Report available for purchase by Gartner clients here:
http://www.gartner.com/DisplayDocument?ref=g_search&id=49422 8&subref=simplesearch
Source: http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=15723

8. *August 15, Finextra* — **U.S. regulator orders banks to disclose hidden fees for gift cards.** The U.S. Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) has ordered banks that issue stored−value gift cards to tell consumers more about hidden charges, which in some cases can consume a card's entire balance. The OCC says banks must put the expiration date on the front of the card and disclose any monthly maintenance, dormancy, usage or other fees. Banks also have to provide a phone number or Website address on the cards to enable customers to obtain additional information. Earlier this year the U.S. Treasury Department was reported to be planning a crackdown on pre−paid and stored value cards because they are increasingly being used for money laundering purposes.
Source: http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=15722

9. *August 15, Washington Post* — **Transportation Department reveals second laptop theft in Florida office.** The inspector general's office at the Florida Department of Transportation disclosed on Monday, August 14 the theft of another laptop from one of its agents in Florida, the second such report in less than a week. Barbara L. Barnet, the special agent in charge of the Miami office, discovered in April that her laptop had been stolen from a locked room during an agency−sponsored anti−fraud conference in Orlando, acting Deputy Inspector General Theodore P. Alves said Monday. "The police report does indicate that there were case files on the computer," Alves said. "The police report also indicates that they were not encrypted, although the computer was password−protected." There is no indication yet that the computer contained sensitive personal information, Alves said.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp−dyn/content/article/2006/08 /14/AR2006081401193.html

10. *August 14, Computer World* — **VA to spend $3.7 million on encryption tools.** The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will spend $3.7 million on encryption software following a theft in May of hardware containing the personal information of 26.5 million veterans and active−duty military personnel. The VA will install two encryption software packages on all of the department's computers, handhelds and storage devices. The installation is scheduled to start Friday, August 18, and VA Secretary R. James Nicholson wants all laptops to include encryption software within a month.
Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewA rticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9002447&taxonomy Id=17

11. *August 13, Associated Press* — **Religion−related fraud getting worse.** Randall W. Harding donated part of his wealth to the Crossroads Christian Church in Corona, CA. In his business dealings, he named his investment firm JTL, or "Just the Lord." Pastors and churchgoers entrusted their money to him. By the time Harding was unmasked as a fraud, he and his partners had stolen more than $50 million from their clients, and Crossroads became yet another cautionary tale in what investigators say is a worsening problem plaguing the nation's churches. Billions of dollars have been stolen in religion−related fraud in recent years, according to the North American Securities Administrators Association. Typically, a con artist will target the pastor first, by making a generous donation and appealing to the minister's desire to expand the church or its programs, according to Joseph Borg, director of the Alabama Securities Commission, who played a role in breaking up the Greater Ministries scam.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp−dyn/content/article/2006/08/13/AR2006081300302.html

12. *August 12, Ynet News (Israel)* — **Yahoo!Mail service vulnerable to hacking.** A security vulnerability exposes Yahoo!Mail private mailboxes to hackers, Ynet has learned. A test conducted by Nir Goldshlager and Roni Bahar from the Israeli security company Avnet shows hackers may gain access to Yahoo!Mail users' mailboxes by sending an e−mail message with a malicious code. According to Goldshlager and Bahar, tools available online may be used to retrieve personal information from the cookie. Alternatively, the hacker can exploit the vulnerability for performing phishing and by sending different malicious code, he can direct the user to enter his password in a site resembling Yahoo.
Source: http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L−3290172,00.html

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

13. *August 15, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO−06−917: Transportation Research: Opportunities for Improving the Oversight of DOT's Research Programs and User Satisfaction with Transportation Statistics (Report).** The Department of Transportation's (DOT) research, development, and technology (RD&T) budget totaled $1.1 billion in fiscal year 2005. DOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) −− which includes the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) −− oversees DOT's RD&T activities. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined (1) how RITA's responsibilities for overseeing DOT's RD&T activities differ from those of its predecessor, the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA); (2) RITA's practices for coordinating, facilitating, and reviewing RD&T activities; (3) the progress DOT has made in implementing GAO's 2003 recommendations on how to improve the coordination and evaluation of RD&T activities; and (4) how BTS identifies and monitors how well it serves its users. To address these issues, GAO reviewed relevant documentation and interviewed officials from RITA, BTS, and three operating administrations. GAO makes several recommendations to DOT to enhance RITA's ability to manage and ensure the effectiveness of RD&T activities. These include (1) developing performance goals, an implementing strategy, and an evaluation plan for RITA; and (2) developing a systematic process for BTS to identify its primary users and solicit and incorporate feedback from those users. DOT generally agreed with the findings and recommendations in this report.

Highlights: http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06917high.pdf
Source: http://www.gao.gov/cgi–bin/getrpt?GAO–06–917

14. *August 15, New York Times* — **Plot shows need for more passenger data.** As British citizens, the 24 terror suspects arrested in England last week could have boarded planes bound for the United States without undergoing an American government background check or obtaining a visa. Britain is among 27 countries whose citizens are not required to obtain visas before traveling to the United States, meaning that the American authorities do not have an opportunity to screen them in advance. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has tried but failed to win broad approval for rules that would require airlines to share passenger information before flights depart for the United States. Instead, under current rules, passenger data is sent in the first 15 minutes after a flight takes off. Since Thursday, August 10, the day the plot was disclosed, DHS officials have required that passenger data be provided before planes leave Britain for the United States, part of a widening of temporary security measures. Because of airline concerns about flight delays and the difficulties of the access to information and European privacy laws, the department's efforts to permanently require advance information on all passengers of international flights are unresolved.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/15/world/europe/15visa.html?_r=1&ref=us&oref=slogin

15. *August 15, Los Angeles Times* — **Fourth glitch in a month has Los Angeles Airport blaming FAA.** Senior Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) officials on Monday, August 14, publicly questioned whether the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was adequately maintaining its air traffic control equipment after a key landing system malfunctioned, the fourth mishap in less than a month. "Enough is enough," said Frank Clark, executive director of the nonprofit organization that represents airlines operating at the Tom Bradley International Terminal. "The frequency of these within a relatively short interval does create a cause for concern and leads us to wonder if there isn't something more systemic going on with maintenance and age of equipment." The latest breakdown occurred Monday morning, August 14, with the Instrument Landing System, the same equipment on the airport's south airfield that malfunctioned a week ago. The system shut down for about 40 minutes, slowing air traffic into LAX. "This is clearly a systemic problem with the equipment," said Lydia Kennard, executive director of Los Angeles World Airports, the city agency that operates LAX. "We believe there's something fundamentally wrong with the equipment. It has to be fixed or replaced." FAA spokesperson Ian Gregor maintained that the landing systems were sound and that the recent equipment outages were unrelated.
Source: http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la–me–lax15aug15,0,7104223.story?coll=la–home–local

16. *August 14, New York Times* — **Screeners to be changed at U.S. airports.** Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said Sunday, August 13, that he intended to replace contractors who inspect passenger identification at airport checkpoints with staff members from the Transportation Security Administration, a move that would be one of the biggest expansions of the agency's tasks since it was set up in the aftermath of the 2001 terrorist attacks. Details of the plan to replace the contractors were still being worked out. But Chertoff said the transportation agency screeners would be trained in psychological profiling under the plan, which he intends to announce in the coming weeks or months. Currently, the

contractors who handle the pre−checkpoint processing of identification documents are hired by airlines. Transportation agency screeners, in addition to handling checkpoint security, also do the simple, labor−intensive task of picking up checked−in bags and placing them into scanning machines before they are loaded onto planes. Under the plan, contractors would take over the manual labor of handling the checked bags, although federal screeners would continue to interpret images for possible threats. But the switch would free up enough screeners to do the identity checks and behavior analyses of passengers waiting to go through security.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/14/washington/14rules.html?_r =2&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

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Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *August 15, DM News* — **Letter Carriers president warns contracting out mail delivery could weaken nation's terrorism defense.** Letter Carriers union president William H. Young warned the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) against out−sourcing to private contractors the delivery of mail to American homes and businesses, saying such a move would weaken the nation's defense against terrorist attacks. Young issued his warning during a keynote address to some 9,300 delegates on the opening day of a week−long 65th biennial convention of the 300,00−member National Association of Letter Carriers at the Las Vegas Convention Center. "The threat to the quality and security of the mail posed by low−wage contract workers cannot be overstated," Young said. "In the midst of a global war on terror, now is not the time to open a hole in the nation's defenses by giving unscreened, contingent workers access to the mail stream." Young said the possibility of such an action by the USPS is not far−fetched, citing the agency's recent announcement that it is considering contracting out work at postal Air Mail Centers.
Source: http://www.dmnews.com/cms/dm−news/direct−mail/37887.html

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Agriculture Sector

18. *August 15, AgProfessional* — **Texas drought losses estimated at $4.1 billion.** Estimated drought losses for Texas have reached $4.1 billion, eclipsing the $2.1 billion mark set in 1998, Texas Cooperative Extension economists reported Friday, August 11. Crop losses are estimated at $2.5 billion and livestock $1.6 billion. "The financial impact will be a major setback because of rising input costs, especially energy prices (to agricultural producers)," said Carl Anderson, Extension economist. "Most of North Texas, East Texas and the Coastal Bend were in various stages of drought since May of last year, and hay supplies were depleted maintaining livestock over the summer and winter," said Travis Miller, Extension agronomist. "Much of the corn and soybean crop has been harvested for silage or hay; pastures are bare and hay barns are empty. Much of the hay being fed is from out−of−state or along the upper coast, which has received favorable rains. Livestock water supplies are disappearing and ranchers are unable to sustain herds with purchased hay and dry tanks." Rural areas are being hardest hit, Anderson said, with projected economic losses at eight billion dollars when the agribusiness impact is included.

This includes businesses that provide equipment and services to farmers and ranchers, including machinery sales, supplies and other production needs, Anderson said.
Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=42606

19. *August 15, Detroit Free Press* — **Bird flu virus found in two wild Michigan swans.** Two wild, mute swans that lived in the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area on the shores of Lake Erie in Monroe County, MI, had a non−threatening strain of the H5N1 bird flu virus, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior said Monday, August 14. Officials said the virus was a strain different from the Asian influenza virus that has killed thousands of chickens and 138 people worldwide. Instead, it was a subtype that has been found in North America before. It also was found in a duck in Manitoba, Canada, last year. The swans were among 29 killed last week to reduce the population of the birds at the game area, said Steve Schmitt, wildlife veterinarian for the state Department of Natural Resources. Then, 25 of the dead swans were tested at a Michigan State University laboratory as part of routine wild−bird surveillance. Two showed the virus, but it was a low−pathogen strain, meaning it causes only small amounts of disease among birds and none in humans.
Source: http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060815/NEWS05/608150391/1007

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Food Sector

20. *August 15, USAgNet* — **Smithfield completes Sara Lee deal.** Groupe Smithfield, S.L., the joint venture of Smithfield Foods and Oaktree Capital Management, has completed its acquisition of the European meats business of Sara Lee. The deal is worth $575 million. Smithfield has contributed its Jean Caby operations to the joint venture. Group Jean Caby had sales of $372 million in fiscal 2006 and is a major producer of branded and private label processed meats to retail and foodservice customers in France and other European countries. Sara Lee's European meats business had sales of $1.1 billion in fiscal 2005 and holds its largest positions in France, Portugal, and the Benelux region, with popular European brands such as Aoste, Justin Bridou, and Nobre. The company also has a presence in Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom.
Source: http://www.usagnet.com/story−national.php?Id=1623&yr=2006

21. *August 11, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **Dip recalled.** Future Food Ltd, of Dallas, TX, is recalling packages of Krab Supreme Dip and Supreme Krab Dip, sold under the brand names of Salads of the Sea, Hen House and Fisherman's Market, because it has the potential to be contaminated with Listeria Monocytogenes, an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Krab Dip Supreme and Supreme Krab Dip were distributed in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, Missouri, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas in the retail stores of Winn−Dixie, Harris Teeter, Kash n Karry, Ball's and Hen House. No illnesses have been reported to date. The potential for contamination was noted after routine testing of the product in one of the states where it is distributed. Testing revealed that a package of the finished product contained Listeria Monocytogenes.
Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/future08_06.html

Water Sector

22. *August 15, Washington Post* — **Northern Nevadans don't want to gamble with their water.** Las Vegas is a desert city in a four−year drought, with new residents pouring in at a rate of at least 5,000 per month. So water officials plan to tap a great system of aquifers that form underground lakes in a swath across Nevada, some of them hundreds of miles away. But the water is not free for the taking. On top of the aquifers are ranches and small towns. In northern Nevada's rural Snake Valley, a proposed 250−mile pipeline would tap aquifers to bring water to Las Vegas in the southern part of the state. Valley residents and officials say there's no water to spare. To carry the water to the households of Las Vegas, engineers propose a pipeline stretching 250 miles. The Nevada state engineer will hold a hearing and then make a decision about how much water Southern Nevada can take. Legally, all the water under Nevada is a state resource, and the engineer must determine its best use. The specter of California's Owens Valley looms over the area, as people recall the aqueducts that almost 100 years ago turned a lush agricultural community into an environmental disaster so that water could be delivered to Los Angeles.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp−dyn/content/article/2006/08 /14/AR2006081401023.html

23. *August 12, United Press International* — **Bad water sickened 200 campers in Maryland.** Contaminated well water is being blamed for an outbreak of Norovirus that sickened some 200 campers at a Boy Scout reservation in Maryland. Harford County health officials said the water at the Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation tested positive for fecal coliform bacteria, which led to the gastrointestinal condition. The outbreak struck as about 1,200 campers ranging in age from five to 18 were taking part in a jamboree for kids of Polish descent from the U.S. and other nations.
Source: http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/view.php?StoryID=20060812−07174 0−6753r

Public Health Sector

24. *August 15, Agence France−Presse* — **Indonesian girl dies of suspected bird flu.** A suspected bird flu victim who is from the same area as Indonesia's latest confirmed case died in hospital, a health official said. The nine−year−old girl was from Cikelet in West Java's Garut district, said Wijayanti, a doctor from Garut's main hospital. It is the same area as a 17−year−old confirmed two days ago as infected with H5N1. Wijayanti said that the girl, who was from a different village to the teenager, was admitted to hospital on Monday, August 14, with pneumonia.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060815/hl_afp/healthfluindones ia_060815094425

25. *August 15, St. Louis Post Dispatch* — **Researchers expand anthrax vaccine trial.** Researchers at St. Louis University (SLU) will expand clinical trials for a new anthrax vaccine after promising results from the first phase of testing. The first phase of the trial was to test the safety

of the vaccine and to see whether it could be effective in fewer doses than the vaccine used by the military. The military vaccine is made from culture medium in which anthrax grows and might contain toxins and other bacterial proteins that cause side effects. People must get six injections of the military vaccine over 18 months and annual booster shots to induce immunity to anthrax. The U.S. government contracted for a California company to develop an anthrax vaccine for civilian use. The new vaccine contains a purified protein from the anthrax bacterium called recombinant Protective Antigen. The researchers tested the new vaccine at four medical centers, including SLU, Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Emory University in Atlanta and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. The researchers are expanding the study to include 400 volunteers in a Phase II clinical trial. The purpose of the new study is to determine how the vaccine should be formulated.
Source: http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscit ycounty/story/0D64E306AD10F2BA862571CB00109F5D?OpenDocument

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.
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Emergency Services Sector

26. *August 15, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **Federal Emergency Management Agency National Situation Update.** Tropical Activity: Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean Sea: A low pressure area, extending from just north of the northern Bahamas northeastward over the Atlantic Ocean for a few hundred miles changed little in organization Monday night, August 14. The system could become more favorable for slow development over the next couple of days as the system remains nearly stationary or drifts northward. A well−organized tropical wave is located just east of the Cape Verde Islands. Some slow development of this system is possible over the next day or so as it moves west− northwestward at 15 to 20 mph. Elsewhere, tropical storm formation is not expected through Wednesday. Western Pacific: Tropical Storm (11w) Wukong and Tropical Storm (12w) Sonamu, are tracking towards the coast of Japan and continue to move away from U.S. interests. Earthquake Activity: A moderate 5.0 magnitude earthquake was reported in the Atlantic at 9:09 am EDT Monday, August 14, 50 miles north−northeast of the U.S. Virgin Islands.
To view other Situation Updates: http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm
Source: http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2006/nat081506.shtm

27. *August 14, San Diego State University* — **Global humanitarian relief experts to demonstrate disaster response innovations in San Diego.** Hosted by San Diego State University (SDSU) and taking place in San Diego, CA, August 21−26, Strong Angel III will field test effective means of delivering life−saving humanitarian relief and rapidly deployable communication systems in the wake of major disasters. The exercise will demonstrate a collaboration of civil and military cooperation and communication capabilities put together by a partnership of private companies, government agencies, humanitarian and relief agencies, and universities.

"Our major goal is to establish a model of community resilience in the face of adversity," said Eric Rasmussen, M.D., director of Strong Angel III and an adjunct professor in SDSU's College of Sciences. "Strong Angel III will explore how to overcome devastating losses of communications infrastructure during major catastrophes." After an initial setup phase, teams from various organizations will conduct more than 40 pre−defined experiments. The experiments will test and demonstrate the usefulness of various technologies and proven techniques, providing valuable information on which solutions and combinations thereof will be of most benefit to first responders, health officials, defense personnel and others in the event of a major disaster.
Strong Angel III Website: http://www.strongangel3.net/home
Source: http://advancement.sdsu.edu/marcomm/news/releases/fall2006/p r081406.htm

28. *August 14, National Journal* — **DHS official emphasizes importance of interoperable communications.** The development of communications systems capable of functioning across jurisdictions is a critical component of emergency preparedness, a senior Department of Homeland Security (DHS) official told a group of state lawmakers Monday, August 14. But the deployment of such interoperable communications systems will require funding and coordination among state and local emergency responders, said Tracy Henke, the department's assistant secretary for grants and training, at the annual meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures. "Interoperability is a mission−critical capability," she told the conference's task force on homeland security and emergency preparedness. DHS is negotiating the transfer of $1 billion from the Department of Commerce to fund the development of interoperable communications systems, according to Henke. She said the cash, which has been generated through spectrum sales, will help boost interoperability projects throughout the country. But Henke said it also is vital that some emergency responders take the first step of deploying adequate communications networks before they focus on making them work across jurisdictions.
Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34784&dcn=to daysnews

29. *August 14, KABC−TV Los Angeles* — **New earthquake computer projects damage.** A new computer model projecting a massive earthquake suggests that even buildings constructed in accordance with the latest codes would tumble in the Southland region of California. Using Caltech's large supercomputer, structural engineer Swaminathan Krishnan and his colleagues modeled what might happen if a massive earthquake rattled tall buildings in the Los Angeles area. With the supercomputer, the researchers watched as the shifting earth jostled imaginary 18−story buildings throughout the Los Angeles area, many of which would not survive. In the San Fernando Valley, the model buildings tumbled, even if they met the most recent building codes. For buildings constructed to laxer standards, the damage was even more extensive. The research is the first to combine detailed earthquake and building models into a single three−dimensional simulation.
Source: http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=local&id=4460324

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

30.

August 15, Security Focus — **IBM Informix Dynamic Server multiple vulnerabilities.** IBM Informix Dynamic Server is prone to multiple vulnerabilities. Analysis: These issues can allow attackers to execute arbitrary code and compromise a vulnerable computer, gain elevated privileges, retrieve sensitive information, and trigger denial−of−service conditions.
For a complete list of vulnerable products: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/19264/info
Solution: IBM has released IBM Informix Dynamic Server versions 7.31.xD9, 9.40.xD8, 10.00.xC4 to address these issues. Contact the vendor to obtain fixes.
Source: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/19264/references

31. *August 14, Security Focus* — **Symantec Backup Exec multiple heap overflow vulnerabilities.** Symantec Backup Exec for Windows Servers and Remote Agents, Continuous Protection Server, and Backup Exec for Netware Servers are prone to multiple heap−overflow vulnerabilities. Analysis: A remote, authenticated attacker may exploit these vulnerabilities to execute arbitrary code and gain administrative privileges on vulnerable computers. Failed exploit attempts may result in denial−of−service conditions.
For a complete list of vulnerable products: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/19479/info
Solution: Symantec has released an advisory and fixes to address these issues. For more information: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/19479/references
Source: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/19479/discuss

32. *August 14, CNET News* — **Dell to recall four million batteries.** Dell and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recalled 4.1 million notebook batteries on Tuesday, August 15. The recall affects certain Inspiron, Latitude and Precision mobile workstations and XPS units shipped between April 2004 and July 18, 2006. Sony manufactured the batteries that are being recalled. Dell has so far received six reports of overheating units that caused property damage, but no injuries. Customers can determine if they need a new battery at:
https://www.dellbatteryprogram.com/Default.aspx
Source: http://news.com.com/Dell+to+recall+over+4+million+batteries/
2100−1044_3−6105486.html

33. *August 14, CNET News* — **AOL snaps up IM developer Userplane.** AOL announced Monday, August 14, that it acquired Userplane, a developer of chat and instant messaging (IM) software, in a move to enhance its community networking offerings. The acquisition marks AOL's latest move to expand its IM efforts.
Source: http://news.com.com/AOL+snaps+up+IM+developer+Userplane/2100
−1032_3−6105180.html?tag=nefd.top

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win−rpc), 4672 (eMule), 25 (smtp), 445 (microsoft−ds), 32790 (−−−), 80 (www), 113 (auth), 135 (epmap), 6346 (gnutella−svc), 139 (netbios−ssn)
	Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html; Internet Storm Center
To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US−CERT at soc@us−cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us−cert.gov.	

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons Sector

34. *August 14, Associated Press* — **Hoover Dam center reopens after scare.** The Hoover Dam visitor center reopened Monday, August 14, while authorities continued investigating the weekend discovery of an explosive blasting cap in a construction tunnel. Bob Walsh, spokesperson for the federal Bureau of Reclamation, which operates the dam, said a fire department bomb squad was called about 1 p.m. Sunday MDT after the blasting cap was found. The Bureau of Reclamation estimates that close to one million visitors a year tour the dam on the Colorado River, 30 miles southeast of Las Vegas, and millions more drive across it. Source: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP−Hoover−Dam−Explosives. html

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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